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Sherry Thompson

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Huff

Serial No.: 10/749,281
Confirmation No.: 9783

Filed: 12/31/2003

For: Bumper/Muffler Assembly

Group Art Unit: 2837

Examiner: Unknown

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(b)

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Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR 1.56, Applicant brings the art document(s) listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 to the attention of the Examiner for consideration in connection with the examination of the above-identified application.

No representation is made that the art cited constitutes prior art or that the art cited is the most relevant art. The reference(s) cited so that the Examiner will be aware of material known to the applicant. The Examiner is encouraged to consider the cited reference(s) and make an independent determination of materiality.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within the period specified at 37 CFR 1.97(b)--i.e., (1) within three months of the filing date of the national application, (2) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application, or (3) to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurs last.

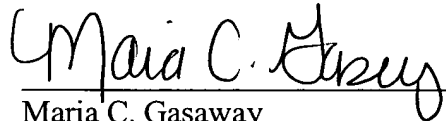
The cited art documents are in the English language, except for DE4326304. An English-language abstract of the DE4326304 document is enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner confirm consideration of the cited documents by initialing the attached Form PTO-1449 and returning a copy of the initialed form to Applicant.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this statement, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) in the event that the period specified at 37 CFR 1.97(b) has elapsed, please charge all required fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0568.

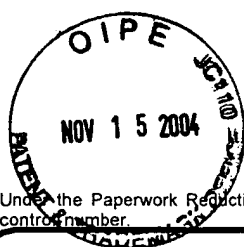
Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11-5-04



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PTO/SB/08A (10-01)
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)		Complete if Known			
		Application Number	10/749,281		
		Filing Date	December 31, 2003		
		First Named Inventor	Huff		
		Art Unit	2837		
		Examiner Name	Unknown		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	24997D

Confirmation No.: 9783

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 4,045,057	08-30-1977	Halter	
		US- 4,880,078	11-14-1989	Inoue et al.	
		US- 4,993,513	02-19-1991	Inoue et al.	
		US- 5,100,047	03-31-1992	Nakagawa et al.	
		US- 5,340,952	08-23-1994	Takiguchi	
		US- 02-0079162	06-27-2002	Huff et al.	
		US- 6,543,577	04-08-2003	Ferreira et al.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		DE 4326304	12-01-1994	Daimler		
		WO 99/27238	06-03-1999	Ferreira		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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